

The Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Original): A low pressure beverage preparation system for automatically preparing a range of beverage types from a range of beverage cartridges, the system comprising:

a beverage preparation machine;

and a plurality of beverage cartridges, each beverage cartridge containing one or more beverage ingredients associated with a specific beverage type, wherein the beverage preparation system comprises:

- a. means for receiving one of said plurality of beverage cartridges in said beverage preparation machine and means for supplying, in use, to said beverage cartridge an aqueous medium at a pressure of less than 2 bar to produce a beverage from the one or more beverage ingredients contained therein;
- b. a reader in said beverage preparation machine for automatically interpreting a code written on said beverage cartridge;
- c. processing means for creating a specific brewing cycle based on said code;
- d. means for automatically adjusting a temperature of said aqueous medium based on said code prior to supply of said aqueous medium to the beverage cartridge;
- e. means in at least some of said plurality of beverage cartridges for optionally, dependant on beverage type, producing foaming of the beverage; and
- f. a user interface for initiating an operating cycle;

wherein the beverage preparation system can produce a range of beverage types including at least, but not limited to, filtered coffee, cappuccino, tea, chocolate and frothed milk, and wherein operation of the user interface is independent of the beverage type being dispensed.

Claim 2 (Original): A low pressure beverage preparation system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the range of beverage types includes coffee, tea, chocolate, milk, soup and fruit juices.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A low pressure beverage preparation system as ~~claimed in claim 2 wherein the beverage preparation machine further comprises~~ for automatically preparing a range of beverage types from a range of beverage cartridges, the system comprising:

a beverage preparation machine;

and a plurality of beverage cartridges, each beverage cartridge containing one or more beverage ingredients associated with a specific beverage type, wherein the beverage preparation system comprises:

a. means for receiving one of said plurality of beverage cartridges in said beverage preparation machine and means for supplying, in use, to said beverage cartridge an aqueous medium at a pressure of less than 2 bar to produce a beverage from the one or more beverage ingredients contained therein;

b. a reader in said beverage preparation machine for automatically interpreting a code written on said beverage cartridge;

c. processing means for creating a specific brewing cycle based on said code;

d. means for automatically adjusting a temperature of said aqueous medium based on said code prior to supply of said aqueous medium to the beverage cartridge;

e. means in at least some of said plurality of beverage cartridges for optionally, dependant on beverage type, producing foaming of the beverage;

f. a user interface for initiating an operating cycle; and

g. means for purging the beverage cartridge after dispensing of the beverage;

wherein the beverage preparation system can produce a range of beverage types including at least, but not limited to, filtered coffee, cappuccino, tea, chocolate and frothed milk, wherein the range of beverage types includes coffee, milk, soup and fruit juices and wherein operation of the user interface is independent of the beverage type being dispensed.

Claim 4 (Original): A low pressure beverage preparation system as claimed in claim 3 further comprising means for controlling the flow rate of aqueous medium into the cartridge.

Claim 5 (Original): A low pressure beverage preparation system as claimed in claim 4 further comprising means for controlling the volume of aqueous medium delivered to the cartridge.

Claim 6 (Original): A low pressure beverage preparation system as claimed in claim 5 wherein one or more of the beverage ingredients is a liquid.

Claim 7 (Original): A low pressure beverage preparation system as claimed in claim 6 wherein one or more of the beverage ingredients is dairy-based.

Claim 8 (Original): A low pressure beverage preparation system as claimed in claim 7 wherein the system may also be used with one or more cartridges comprising one or more non-beverage ingredients, for preparation of non-beverage products, such as sauces and desserts.

Claim 9 (Original): A low pressure beverage preparation system comprising a beverage preparation machine and a plurality of beverage cartridges, each beverage cartridge containing one or more beverage ingredients, wherein the beverage preparation machine comprises processing means and a memory for storing information about the beverage cartridges dispensed by the beverage preparation machine.

Claim 10 (Original): A low pressure beverage preparation system as claimed in claim 9 wherein the memory stores information about the beverage ingredients contained in the beverage cartridges dispensed by the beverage preparation machine.

Claim 11 (Original): A low pressure beverage preparation system as claimed in claim 10 wherein the memory stores information about the order of beverage cartridges dispensed by the beverage preparation machine.

Claim 12 (Original): A low pressure beverage preparation system as claimed in claim 11 wherein the reader is an optical bar code reader.

Claim 13 (Original): A low pressure beverage preparation system as claimed in claim 12 being a domestic low pressure beverage preparation system.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn): A method of preparing at least one of a range of beverages comprising the steps of:

- a. inserting at least one beverage cartridge containing one or more beverage ingredients into a low pressure beverage preparation machine;
- b. operating a user interface of said beverage preparation machine to initiate an operating cycle;
- c. operating a reader to detect a code written on said beverage cartridge;
- d. creating a specific brewing cycle based on said code;

- e. passing an aqueous medium through the beverage cartridge to produce a beverage, wherein the temperature pre-wet, volume, flow rate and air purge of the aqueous medium is set based on the code;
- f. for at least some of the range of beverages, producing foaming of the beverage;

wherein the method can produce a range of beverage type using one or more beverage cartridges including at least, but not limited to, filtered coffee, cappuccino, tea, chocolate and frothed milk, and wherein operation of the user interface is independent of the beverage type being dispensed.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn): A method of preparing a beverage comprising the steps of:

- a. inserting a first beverage cartridge containing one or more beverage ingredients into a beverage preparation machine;
- b. operating said beverage preparation machine to pass an aqueous medium through the first beverage cartridge at a pressure of less than 2 bar to dispense a first portion of said beverage into a receptacle;
- c. storing in a memory of said beverage preparation machine information on the type of the first beverage cartridge;
- d. inserting a second beverage cartridge containing one or more beverage ingredients into the beverage preparation machine; and
- e. operating the beverage preparation machine to pass an aqueous medium through the second beverage cartridge at a pressure of less than 2 bar to dispense a second portion of said beverage into the receptacle;

wherein one or more operating parameters of the beverage preparation machine during dispensing of the second beverage cartridge are set with reference to the information stored in the memory on the type of the first beverage cartridge.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn): A method as claimed in claim 15 further comprising using additional beverage cartridges to dispense three or more portions of a beverage.

Claim 17 (Withdrawn): A method as claimed in claim 16 wherein the one or more operating parameters include:

- I. the temperature of the aqueous medium passed through the beverage cartridge;
- II. the flow rate of the aqueous medium;
- III. the presence or absence of a pre-wet stage;
- IV. the presence or absence of an air-purge stage;
- V. the pressure of the aqueous medium; and/or
- VI. the total volume of aqueous medium dispensed.

Claim 18 (New): A low pressure beverage preparation system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the user interface includes a start/stop button.

Claim 19 (New): A low pressure beverage preparation system as claimed in claim 18 wherein the user interface wherein the start/stop button can be used to manually adjust the volume of the beverage being dispensed without altering the other operating characteristics.

Claim 20 (New): A low pressure beverage preparation system as claimed in claim 9 wherein the information stored in the memory about the beverage cartridges dispensed by the beverage preparation machine includes information about a previous cartridge that is used to adjust the temperature of a water heater prior to insertion of a subsequent cartridge into the machine.

Claim 21 (New): A low pressure beverage preparation system as claimed in claim 9 wherein the information stored in the memory about the beverage cartridges dispensed by the beverage preparation machine includes information about a previous cartridge that is used to adjust the flow rate of water to a subsequent cartridge.

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Claim 22 (New): A low pressure beverage preparation system as claimed in claim 9 wherein the information stored in the memory about the beverage cartridges dispensed by the beverage preparation machine includes information about a previous cartridge that is used to adjust the amount of water delivered to a subsequent cartridge.